



City of Harrisonburg Stormwater Advisory Committee

Minutes: Meeting No. 12

January 7, 2015 5:00 – 5:45 p.m.

Members in attendance: Kathy Holm, William Jones, Daniel Michael, Eldon Kurtz, William Latham

Staff/Other in attendance: Thanh Dang, Carolyn Howard, Kelley Junco, Harsit Patel, Tom Hartman, Dan Rublee, John Eckman, Mark Klosinski, Paul Basset

Review and Adopt Minutes

Bill Jones called for a motion to adopt the December 2014 SWAC meeting minutes. The motion was made, seconded, and passed.

Public Comment

Mark Klosinski explained the characteristics of his property and claimed that he does not contribute to the storm sewer system, since there is no drainage off of his property, the driveway is sloped towards the house, and he is on a septic system. Bill Latham explained the community need and Daniel Michael explained how our daily actions (beyond our property's impervious surface) impacts stormwater and that the City needed an equitable solution to pay for the needed projects. Dan Rublee expanded Daniel's idea and explained how driving a car around City limits can impact stormwater. Mr. Klosinski asked about the East Market Street regenerative conveyance which Tom Hartman described in further detail. Mr. Klosinski asked why this was not a monitoring-based approach. Bill Latham explained the project-based approach and the difficulty that a monitoring-based approach would be for governing agencies.

DRAFT Credit Manual and Stormwater Utility Ordinance

Thanh Dang requested credit manual comments from SWAC members. Dan asked if changes were made for the projects that utilized the nutrient crediting program. Thanh responded that the document has not been finalized and that those changes can be incorporated into the final version. Thanh explained the question about VPDES Industrial sites receiving additional credit as permit-holders. Tom and Dan discussed whether they should submit DMRs and SWPPPs with their applications before the city allows for a credit. Thanh summarized what other communities have done and said we could recommend required DMRs and SWPPPs.

Review Public Comment

In submitting the formal public comment submissions to city council, Thanh asked SWAC whether the names should be included or excluded and/or should the comments be summarized. Bill Jones and others agreed the names and comments should be submitted as is.

Stormwater Advisory Board

Thanh reviewed the proposed stormwater advisory board ordinance. Regarding the proposed appeal process, Dan asked if there is a commitment to the applicant that the appeal will go to the board. Thanh responds yes. Eldon offers language to redefine the appeals language from 'suspected alleged error' made by city staff to 'interpretation of documents'. Dan Rublee and Daniel Michael agreed the language should be changed from "alleged error made by city staff". Tom offered that the appeals process models the zoning board of appeals process. Bill Jones stated there should also be an option to appeal to circuit court. All agreed.

Dan Rublee presented a question: Should the appeal have an associated fee for the applicant? After discussion, Kathy, Tom, and Bill J responded 'no'. Eldon suggested the stormwater advisory board could change its stance later, if needed. Daniel Michael asked that the applications be posted online and SWAC members be notified when it is posted.

General Questions/Discussion

Thanh explained the tall grass and weeds ordinance. Stormwater BMPs will be added as an exemption in the ordinance. Dan said that VSMP projects are also being added to the exemptions list. Applicants must delineate their growing area/type of plants, etc. to define the exempted area. Kathy recommended the stormwater ordinance needed added language that the annual fee is subject to change upon review by city council. All agreed.

Utility Fee Approval Schedule

Thanh reviewed the schedule and addressed a change:

- 1st reading at City Council is now on February 24th
- 2nd reading at City Council is now on March 10th

Bill Jones volunteered to be there to present to city council. Kathy asked if SWAC members should attend the council meeting; Thanh said all are welcome and Bill may ask supporters or members of SWAC to stand.

The next SWAC meeting will be held on February 4, 2015.